## Message Text

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**ACTION SS-25** 

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 4582

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**EXDIS** 

E.O. 11652: NGDS

TAGS: EAID, EGEN, USEGJC

SUBJECT: EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE TO EGYPT

REF: A. STATE 139397 B. CAIRO 5909 C. CAIRO 5913

- 1. FOLLOWING IS EMBASSY'S COMMENT ON ANALYSIS AND CONCLUSIONS SET FORTH IN REF A.
- 2. PARAGRAPH 2. A. WE CONCUR THAT IT WAS NOT OUR INTENT TO USURP ARAB ROLE IN PROVIDING AID TO EGYPT. WE ALSO WANT,OF COURSE, TO GET BACK TO PREDOMINATELY PROJECT AID ASP.
- 3. PARAGRAPH 2. B. WHILE WE AGREE THAT CONSORTIUM CONCEPT NOT FEASIBLE, WE BELIVE PRINCIPAL OBSTACLE IS DESIRE OF BOTH EGYPTIANS AND ARABS TO SEPARATE ARAB AID FROM OTHER AID. WE CONSIDER SUCH SEPARATENESS TO BE BAD PROPOSITION AND WE RECOMMEND THAT WE CONTINUE TO URGE BOTH TO DROP IT.
- 4. PARAGRAPH 2. C. WE AGREE THAT GOE HAS BEEN UNWILLING TO STATE WHAT REDUCTIONS IN IMPORTS COULD REASONABLY BE MADE, BUT BELIEVE GOE HAS BEEN CONSISTENT IN ITS POSITION THAT ITS REQUIREMENTS FOR EMERGENCY RELIEF ARE LE 1.5 BILLION RPT 1.5 BILLION. THIS FIGURE INCLUDES, AS BEST WE CAN DETERMINE, REFINANCING FOR ALL RPT ALL OUTSTANDING BANK CONFIDENTIAL

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FACILITIES WHICH AMOUNT TO SOME LE 700 MILLION

ACCORDING TO THE OFFICIAL FOREIGN EXCHANGE BUDGET.

5. PARAGRAPH 2. D. IMF EFFORTS ARE, OF COURSE, AT IMPASSE. IBRD APPEARS LESS INSISTENT ON REDUCTION OF IMPORTS AND MORE FAVORABLY DISPOSED TOWARDS GOE EFFORTS TO REFINANCE SHORT-TERM CREDIT THAN RELATED POSITIONS TAKEN IN OUR LETTER. SEE REF B.

6. PARAGRAPH 3. WHILE GOE DID NOT OBJECT EXPLICITLY TO OUR CONSTRUCTION OF REQUIREMENTS, THEY HAVE CONSISTENTLY USED FIGURE OF LE 1.5 BILLION IN THEIR DISCUSSIONS WITH US AND HAVE NEVER BACKED AWAY FROM IT.

7. PARAGRAPH 4. FIGURE USED BY GOE AT SALZBURG WAS LE 1.5 MILLION RATHER THAN DOLLARS 1.5 BILLION. AGAIN, TO OUR KNOWLEDGE, GOE HAS CONSISTENTLY USED THIS FIGURE. WE BELIEVE BASIC DIFFERENCE IS (A) UNWILLINGNESS OF GOE AT LEAST FOR BARGAINING PURPOSES, TO REDUCE PROJECTED IMPORT LEVELS, AND (B) GOE DESIRE TO REFINANCE OUTSTANDING SHORT-TERM CREDITS.

8. PARAGRAPH 5. AS EVIDENT IN REF C, ABU ISMAIL'S RESPONSE TO DRAFT LETTER HAS FURTHER MUDDIED THE WATER. WE PRESUME COMMITMENT CITED REFERS TO ACCEPTANCE OF FIGURE OF DOLLARS 1.5 BILLION AS BASIC REQUIREMENT. SINCE THAT FIGURE CONTINUED TO DIFFER GREATLY FROM GOE POSITION, WE DO NOT INTEND RAISE ACCEPTANCE ISSUE WITH ABU ISMAIL IN ANY WAY PENDING RECEIPT FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS.

9. PARAGRAPH 6 WE AGREE FULLY WITH CONCEPTUAL VIEWS ON RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN ARAB AND OTHER AID, PARTICULARLY THE CONCLUSION THAT WE SHOULD NOT RPT NOT HAVE SEPARATE TARGETS AND FUND-RAISING EFFORTS FOR EACH SIDE. HOWEVER, DISCUSSION OF MAGNITUDE OF TOTAL PACKAGE AND IMPLICATIONS THEREOF MUST AWAIT FURTHER CLARIFICATION OF DIFFERENCE BETWEEN FIGURE OF DOLLARS 1.5 BILLION USED IN SUBJECT CABLE ANDOF LE 1.5 BILLION CONSISTENTLY USED BY GOE.

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Subject: EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE TO EGYPT

TAGS: EAID, EGEN, EG, US, USEGJC
To: STATE

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